

ATN HELPS IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CULTURE OF WORKPLACE

ABOUT FLEXCO CORPORATION. Flexco Corporation, along with its parent company Roppe Corporation, is a nationwide supplier of the finest rubber and vinyl products on the market. Based in Tuscumbia, AL, Flexco employs over 200 people.

THE CHALLENGE. Flexco hired its first safety manager and tasked her to create a culture in which safety supervisors understand their safety responsibilities to the company; employees are conscious of the importance of safety and have a responsibility to recognize, report, and address hazards; and communication regarding safety is improved, with the overall goal to create a sustainable safety culture throughout the Flexco organization. Flexco understood that this task would involve a long-term commitment and would include workforce education and training as well as technical assistance focused on all aspects of workplace health and safety.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Alabama Technology Network (ATN), part of the MEP National Network™, was contacted to provide an array of services to support Flexco's journey to create a sustainable safety culture. Working in partnership with Flexco's Safety Manager and other company managers and employees, ATN developed a program to offer services over a two year period. These services included: delivering hazard recognition workshops for supervisors; collaborating with Flexco staff to develop an ergonomics team; conduct safety "train the trainer" workshops for company Supervisors and Safety Captains as well as delivering an OSHA 30 hour course for Safety Captains. During the two-year period, ATN also delivered E3 services to the company, which included energy and environmental as well as health and safety services, critical to sustainability. As part of the sustainability services, Flexco was part of the initial Alabama Sustainability Internship program, in which a University of Alabama undergraduate student was placed at Flexco during the summer to assist with sustainability projects. ATN staff continue to work with Flexco to provide coaching and advice to the Safety Manager, Supervisors, and Safety Captains with respect to safety and health initiatives. In addition, ATN is in discussions with Flexco regarding an Innovation project that will involve local Flexco staff and their corporate staff in an endeavor to design a program to create a culture within the Flexco/Roppe Corporation around safety and other elements critical to the corporation's sustainability efforts.

"ATN has been a great resource for safety assistance and training for our management staff and production personnel. The ATN instructors are professional and extremely knowledgeable about safety regulations and systems. Being able to utilize ATN as a resource has helped improve Flexco's overall safety culture."

-Janet Blair Wright, Safety Manager

RESULTS



\$200,000 in annual workman's comp. insurance savings



25% improvement on some lines



15 new and 150 retained jobs



\$400,000 annual sales increase



Change in the company's overall safety culture

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